

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 9, which are independent, are hereby amended. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as allegedly indefinite. Applicants note that the Office Action states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the external unit."

However, Applicants submit that claim 6 recites:

"...input means for inputting said data rate control signal from **an external unit.**"

Applicants submit that claim 6 is patentable. Claim 8 is patentable for similar reasons.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103(a)

Claims 1 and 3-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,989,091 to Lucas.

Claims 2 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,989,091 to Lucas in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,463,419 to Saito.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...wherein M is a variable number dependent on the data rate control signal, and
wherein the data rate control signal is changed by thinning luminance data without thinning color difference data.”
(Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, U.S. Patent No. 4,989,091 to Lucas (hereinafter, merely “Lucas”) relates to a high definition B-MAC television signal transmission system that comprises a scan converter and a signal pre-processor for accepting signals in various high definition formats.

As understood by Applicant, U.S. Patent No. 5,463,419 to Saito (hereinafter, merely “Saito”) relates to an analog-to-digital converter (ADC) in an image processing device, that transforms an image generated by an imaging device and having a high pixel density to a corresponding digital image signal..

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in Lucas or Saito, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1.

Specifically, Applicant submits that Lucas and Saito fail to teach or suggest that M is a variable number dependent on the data rate control signal, and that the data rate control

signal is changed by thinning luminance data without thinning color difference data, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable.

For similar reasons as those described above, claim 9 is also patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

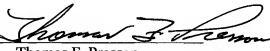
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any
overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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